

# SPECIAL EDITION



# The GW HATCHET

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The George Washington University

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Friday, October 30, 1992

## Musante resigns over racial slur



HANK FRADELLA SWEARS IN Jon Tarnow as the new Student Association president Thursday.

## GW to suspend operations, class for 1 hour Monday to assemble

by Lisa Leiter

Managing Editor

The University will cancel classes and close most University offices Monday between 12:45 and 1:45 p.m. to hold a special event in the Smith Center commencing Unity Week, according to LeNorman Strong, executive director for the Office of Campus Life.

The administration created the event entitled "Remarks by President (Stephen Joel) Trachtenberg and A Conversation With The University Community at the Beginning of Unity Week" as a result of Student Association President Mike Musante's resignation. It will begin with comments by Trachtenberg, who said he feels it is important for him to address faculty, staff and students, according to Vice President for Student and Academic Support Services Robert Chernak.

SA President Jon Tarnow, University Intern Kyle Farmby, former Black Peoples' Union Pres-

ident Mark Chichester, Program Board Vice Chair Jenn Wass, Elliott School of International Affairs Professor Ronald Palmer and others will speak at the event.

In an interview Thursday night, Musante said he will not decide

whether he will speak at the Monday event until he returns to campus Sunday night and talks with student leaders and administration. Musante is currently in

(See ASSEMBLY, p. 7)

### MLK's daughter will be keynote speaker Controversy affects Unity Week plans;

by Daniel Owen  
Hatchet Staff Writer

GW administrators revamped the events of Unity Week as a result of former Student Association President Mike Musante's racist comment and his subsequent resignation. The week will aim to educate GW students on cultural diversity, Program Board Multicultural Affairs Chair MaryJo Maralit said.

Prior to Musante's resignation, Unity Week events were scheduled from Oct. 30 to Nov. 9. However, after several top administrators met Thursday afternoon, they decided to cancel classes and suspend University operations for an hour on Monday and hold "Remarks by President Trachtenberg and a Conversation with the University Community at the Beginning of Unity Week."

The event — which will take place from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. at the Smith Center — will include comments by new SA President Jon Tarnow, Univer-

(See UNITY, p. 7)

by Deborah Solomon

Editor-in-Chief

Student Association President Mike Musante resigned his position Thursday morning three days after admitting he used the word nigger in a conversation he had with SA Chief of Staff Bill Baroni and SA Director of Athletics Michael Rabie.

Musante, who said Wednesday he would not step down from office, said his resignation is effective immediately. According to the SA Constitution, SA Executive Vice President Jon Tarnow will assume the role of president.

"I thought it was best for the student body at GW for me to resign my position. It was a personal decision and I hope people will look back and see some of the good that the Student Association has accomplished. After conversations and advice from close friends I realized I had to resign," Musante said from his home in West Virginia. His resignation comes shortly after 10 senators wrote a letter asking him to step down from his position.

He said he has total confidence in Tarnow's ability to assume the presidency. "Jon is great, I love him dearly. He is honest and sincere and an able leader. I think he can successfully lead the Student Association," Musante said.

Tarnow, who said he will probably name his vice president on Sunday, said he is not sure how he will restructure the current cabinet. He said he assumes some cabinet members from Musante's administration will want to leave the SA out of loyalty to Musante. He added that he will accept resignations but urges current members to continue their work within the SA.

"This is a decision the vice presidents need to make. I want to let the cabinet figure out what they want to do," Tarnow said. He said he anticipates a lot of change within the SA, especially in leadership style. "My style is much different from Michael's, however, the issues we have been concentrating on will remain the same," Tarnow said.

He added he is not sure whether SA Chief of Staff Bill

Baroni will remain. "I have not reached a decision on whether Bill will stay. However, a chief of staff is not a mandatory position to have," Tarnow said.

Tarnow said he feels sorry for Musante, but is eager to begin rebuilding the SA. "He made a horrible mistake, but I admire his decision to be honorable and come forward. Now we can begin the process of healing both within the SA and at GW," Tarnow said. He added his first goal is to re-establish the SA and to regain the respect of the community.

School of Medicine and Health Sciences Sen. Raffi Terzian will become head of the Senate until Tarnow appoints a new executive vice president. Terzian, who was SA president in the 1988-89 academic year, said he thinks Musante did the right thing by resigning. "Students lost confidence in his ability to lead. He had no other choice but to step down," Terzian said.

Baroni said he advised Musante to resign for his own well-being. "The University seemed to be served best by him stepping aside," Baroni said. He added that he does not know if he will remain in the SA. "I think we are now in a position of having to heal and the best way for that to be done is for all people to come together in a way we haven't seen and talk about it," he said.

Tarnow, Musante and Terzian agree with Baroni that the next step is to try to educate the GW community about racism. "I don't think Mike's resignation solves the problem, we need to work to bring this campus back together again," Terzian said.

"I hope that I can help remedy this situation, I hope I can help bring the campus back together again," Musante said. He added that he will return to campus Sunday and will participate in educational events such as Unity Week.

Rabie said he applauds Musante for "admitting what he said . . . I feel that he took the steps that he needed to take for himself." He added the next step is to ease racial tensions among students.

## Tarnow takes reins; urges campus unity

by Lee Hoffman  
Senior Staff Writer

Chief Justice of the Student Court Hank Fradella swore in Jon Tarnow as SA president Thursday afternoon before an audience of 15 student leaders and members of the press. Tarnow, former SA executive vice president, took office after SA President Mike Musante resigned his post Thursday morning.

Following his installation, Tarnow read from a prepared statement: "Our GW family has been hurt and divided — it is now my primary responsibility to bring us back together. We cannot let this incident paralyze our campus," he said.

Tarnow also said he is concerned about the SA's credibility. "It is of utmost importance that the Student Association continue to represent and serve the students," he said. Tarnow added he has met with University officials about future plans and intends to speak with all interested students and groups about the transition from Musante's administration.

There will be some changes in personnel and the internal organization

of the SA, Tarnow said, adding he is not planning any major policy overhauls. "The Student Association has an obligation to move forward — to continue the vital initiative begun by the Michael Musante administration and myself. This campus, and its government, cannot afford to look only back. We must move in a positive and constructive manner," he said.

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Administration reacts to resignation p.3

Students view president's resignation differently p.3

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Musante's prior accomplishments p.7

**dog** \dôg\ n. a highly variable domestic animal.

*Canis Familiaris*

**pound** \paund\ vb. to reduce to powder or pulp by beating.

**dog pound** \dogpaund\ n. a highly charged group of semi-rabid fanatics of Colonials Basketball.

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# Officials agree school benefits in resignation

by Lisa Leiter

Managing Editor

GW's top administrators agree that former Student Association President Mike Musante "did the right thing" when he resigned from his position early Thursday morning.

President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg said he thinks "the entire episode is painful and regrettable (for Musante)." He said he feels worse, however, for any student who Musante hurt by using the word nigger in a private meeting with Chief of Staff Bill Baroni and former SA Director of Athletics Michael Rabie.

Trachtenberg expressed his commitment to healing and getting the University on as "highest ground as possible." He will address the GW community at a Unity Week event Monday in the Smith Center (see related story p.1).

Vice President for Student and Academic Support Services Robert Chernak said Musante's resignation is the beginning of a developmental period in his life.

"It is always tragic when circumstances — even those which are self-inflicted — result in a young person's setback," Chernak said. "If one were to unfortunately make a mistake, it is better for it to happen in a stage in life when it is correctable."

Trachtenberg agrees and said forgiveness exists within universities.

"We believe that people can learn (from their mistakes). Only he (Musante) knows what this will mean to him and whether he will gain something as an individual," Dean of Students Linda Donnels said. "If we believe that a single event can ruin your life, it goes against (what) the University (believes in) to teach, learn and grow."

Assistant Dean of Students Jan-Mitchell Sherrill said Musante's statement has no place at the University, which "finds any kind of sexual, racial or homophobic slur to be abhorrent."

According to a suggested draft of the revised student code of conduct written this summer by an ad hoc committee, if a student uses hate speech in conjunction with another violation of the code, the student can be held accountable for both the violation and the hate speech. Because Musante only used a what could be construed as a hateful word, he will not be punished for that alone, Sherrill said.

Sherrill added he thought Musante acted correctly by resigning, and that if he had not resigned the SA process would have worked to remove him.

Multicultural Student Services Director Valerie Epps noted that when a leader of an organization makes a mistake, he has to answer to the people. She said she thought Musante's resignation was appropriate because SA senators had "lost their confidence in his leadership."

"I'm impressed with the students on campus who are speaking their minds and not being supportive of those types of statements being made about one group of people," she said. She added she is happy to see a diverse group of students — rather than just black students — reacted to the incident.

Looking toward the future and the outcome of Musante's statement, administrators said they believe the University must enter a time of healing and must learn from Musante's mistake.

"(Musante's) resigning moves away from political competitive negatives," LeNorman Strong, executive director for the Office of Campus Life, said. "He did the right thing (proving) his commitment to learn and take part in the community's healing process."

Epps said she encourages students to attend more activities in addition to those included in Unity Week.

"We should go through Unity Week and assess its success," Trachtenberg said, adding, however, that "it would be a blunder" to expect 100 percent success. "There is always a possibility that someone will do something thoughtless."

## Student leaders react to incident, outcome

### Call slur 'deplorable,' cite larger problem

by Maren Feltz

News Editor

Student leaders describe Student Association President Mike Musante's use of a racial slur in a conversation with two members of his Cabinet as "deplorable," "shocking" and "unbelievable," but unanimously agree that his remark was only a symptom of a greater problem of racism on campus.

"This thing is happening on so many different levels. I think there is not one specific thing we can do to confront this issue," Program Board Chair Darren Kaminsky said.

Kaminsky said he thought Musante had to resign his post because "he no longer would be effective as SA president."

"When I see the word he used I see other racial slurs for other racial minorities. It really struck a hammer to the heart of the campus," Kaminsky said.

"Under the circumstances resigning is the best thing he could do," Lesbian Gay Bisexual Alliance member Steve Raiche said. "If he didn't resign or wasn't asked to leave, what kind of

message would that send to the GW community?"

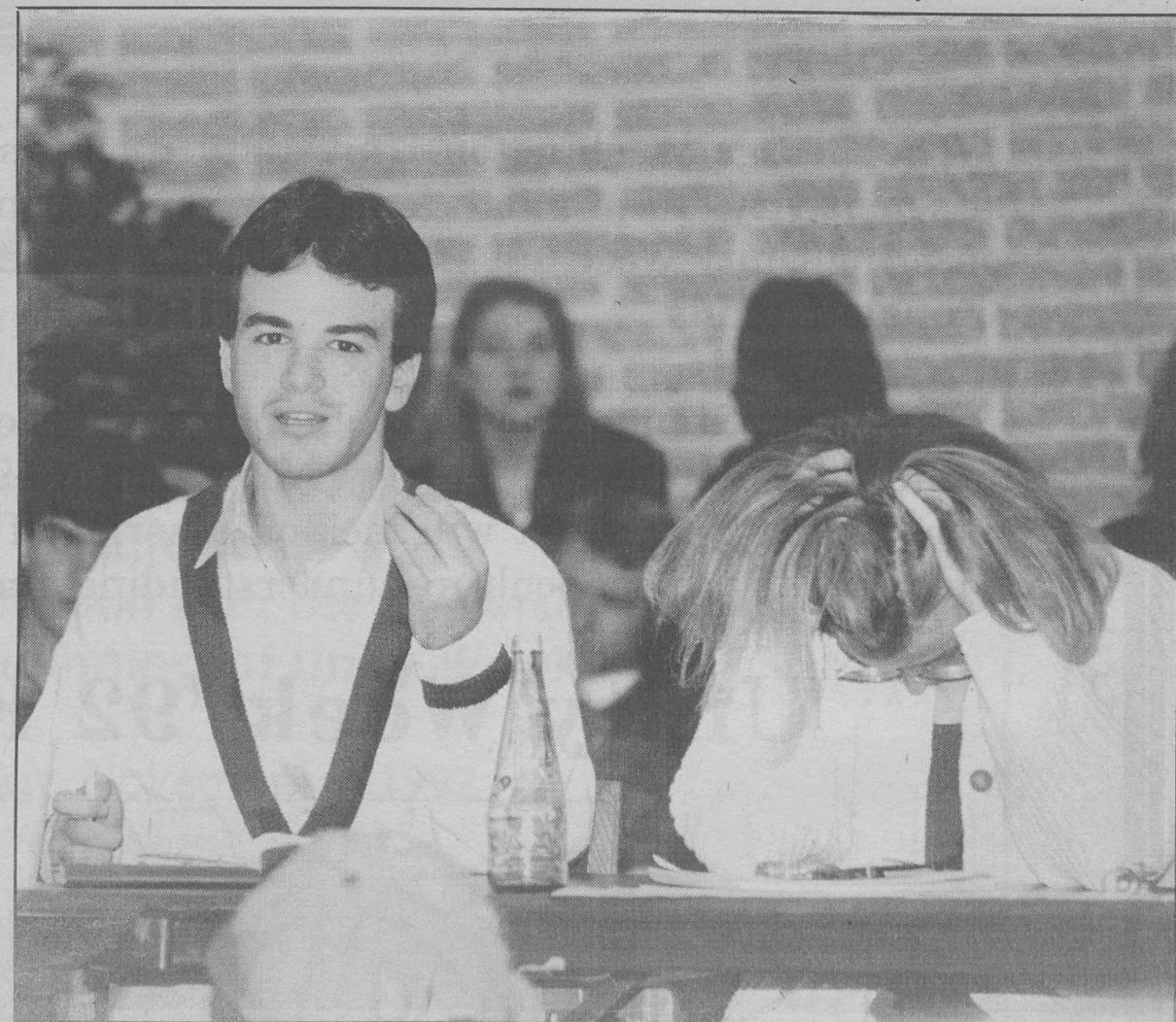
International Student Society President Yirgalem Tadesse agrees that resigning was "the proper thing" for Musante to do. "I must question Mike Musante's leadership because he, as a student leader — especially as the leader of the Student Association — should be, by definition, a representative of the students. He failed to do that."

Progressive Student Union and Women's Issues Now member Beth Kanter said Musante's remark was evidence of the problem the University and society in general have in addressing racial problems. "Racism is a philosophy. If we just make this into a Mike thing, we bring it back down to an incident level."

"Racism is not the only problem in SA," Kanter added. "Sexism, homophobia, even classism are all issues that need to be addressed."

"This attitude of negative thinking still exists on the fourth floor, especially in the offices of the Student Association."

(See REACTION, p. 6)



Sens. Bill Aronson and Jessica Arneson at the senate meeting Tuesday night.

photo by Sloan Ginn

## Senators rethink roles for new administration, ponder loyalty

by Daniel Owen

Hatchet Staff Writer

The resignation of Student Association President Mike Musante received mixed reactions from members of the SA Senate.

At a regularly scheduled senate meeting Tuesday, 10 senators called for Musante to resign in a letter printed in Thursday's GW Hatchet.

The letter cited two reasons for Musante's resignation: "One, your actions outraged and offended many members of our constituencies. Secondly, your statement and actions . . . render you unable to continue to effectively discharge your duties as SA president."

Freshman Sen. Thembi Duncan signed the letter and said she thinks it is not enough for Musante to resign. "I definitely felt resigning was something he should do," Duncan said. "But him just stepping down quietly is not the way to go."

Duncan said she hopes Musante will still attend the special senate meeting called for Wednesday, as well as his scheduled meeting Tuesday with the Black Peoples' Union. "The senate meeting may be useful to shed some light on this situation," Duncan said, adding that she wants Musante to "come to some kind of resolution."

"I think he should hold some kind of forum so he can talk to people and people can talk to him and we can work this out," Duncan said. She said she is surprised Musante resigned "so quickly."

Elliott School of International Affairs Sen. Jason Schwartz, who wrote the letter, said he believes Musante did "the best thing" by resigning. "The sooner the personal factor of Mike Musante is out of the picture, the sooner we can address the larger issues that are important," Schwartz said.

He said he feels the longer Musante stayed president, the longer he would have been made a "scapegoat" for the bigger tensions on campus. Schwartz said he is not surprised Musante resigned. "From my perspective, as soon as I heard the allegations were correct, I knew he had to resign," he said.

"I'm pleased he resigned," School of Business and Public Management Sen. Richard Pearlman said. "I'm not pleased about the situation that caused the resignation to occur."

"I hope some tangible steps can now be made to ease race relations on campus," Pearlman said, adding he thinks Musante's resignation is the first step. "I think some good can come out of Musante remaining in the public eye."

"I think resigning the best thing he can do at this time, for the students and for the Student Association," Undergraduate At-Large Sen. Jessica Arneson said. Arneson said she thinks resigning was Musante's only option.

"It's going to hurt the SA," Arneson said, adding "up to

this point, I think Mike's done a good job. He always wanted to do what was best for the SA, and I think he realized in this situation, that resigning is the best thing to do."

Graduate At-Large Sen. Brad Gordon said he thinks it would be "counterproductive" to have allowed the senate to attempt to remove Musante. "I feel relieved that we can recommit our work and not be sidelined by this," Gordon said. "I feel sorry for Mike and the kind of trauma he's been going through, though I know he put himself there," he said.

"I don't think, of his own accord, he would have resigned," Gordon said. He said he thought Musante's close advisers, including SA Chief of Staff Bill Baroni, "smelled blood" and advised Musante to resign.

Columbian College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Sen. Jon Frieber said he hopes new SA President Jon Tarnow will continue Musante's programs. "I like the direction the SA has been going in," Frieber said of Musante's presidency.

Graduate SBPM Sen. Sue Walitsky said she thinks it is "unfortunate" Musante had been forced out so quickly. "It's a very emotional issue, and I think it would have been better if people had thought with their heads instead of their emotions," she said.

Though Walitsky said she knows what Musante said was wrong, "that doesn't dismiss everything he has achieved as president." She said Musante had made progress on the issues of security and financial aid. "Things he said he'd do, he did," she said.

Walitsky said she hopes Musante's resignation would not be the end of the issue. She said she hopes Tarnow would take steps to ease the tensions in the GW community.

Walitsky said she has known Musante since his freshman year, when he was a member of the SA office staff. "He has matured incredibly since then. In the past three days he has surpassed all of that," she said.

Graduate SBPM Sen. Allen Lawrence said he thought Musante was "a great president" and "I think we'll definitely miss the great job his administration has done."

"I think what he said was unfortunate," Lawrence said. "I don't think the intent was hateful or racist. I think it was a slip of the tongue. That doesn't make what he said right, but I don't think he was being intentionally racist."

Lawrence said he thinks former SA Director of Athletics Michael Rabie's original accusation might have been in part motivated by "a lot of personal conflicts" that Lawrence said exist between Rabie and Musante.

Lawrence noted that Musante called all of the senators to apologize for his actions, and to state his intention to remain in office.

The George Washington University community values cultural diversity and sensitivity. To promote a greater understanding, the Program Board is sponsoring Unity Week 1992: **One Campus: Affirming Diversity – Building Common Visions.**

President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg will convene a discussion with the University community on Monday, November 2, 1992 at 12:45 in the Charles E. Smith Center. This event will kick-off a series of Unity Week programs which are planned to promote cultural understanding and sensitivity.

## Unity Week '92 Keynote



**"One Community...Ultimately"**

### **Yolanda King**

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**Monday, November 2, 1992 • 8:00 P.M. • Marvin Center Ballroom**

A Question and Answer Session Will Follow Ms. King's Address

– Refreshments Will Be Provided –

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The George Washington University  
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**Participate In A Conversation With The University Community  
at the beginning of Unity Week**

**Monday, November 2, 1992  
12:45 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.  
Charles E. Smith Center, Main Arena**

Comments by:

- ★ President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg
- ★ Jon Tarnow, President, Student Association
- ★ Kyle Farmbry, University Intern
- ★ Mark Chichester, Member - Black Law Students Association and  
Former President of The Black People's Union
- ★ Jenn Wass, Vice Chair, Program Board
- ★ Ronald Palmer, Elliott School of International Affairs Professor
- ★ and others

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**Follow-Up Small Group Discussions  
2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.  
Marvin Center**

Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to continue discussions about concerns within the University community and to explore ideas to heal our community by participating in small group discussions. Groups will be convening in the Marvin Center and other locations listed on the Small Group Meeting Schedule.

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# SA Cabinet struggles on role with Tarnow

by Vince Tuss

Hatchet Staff Writer

Student Association President Mike Musante's resignation has prompted questions of whether members of the SA Cabinet will continue to hold office under Jon Tarnow's new administration.

Several vice presidents have been fighting between feelings of personal loyalty to Musante and their desires to continue in the task they were appointed to. They met Thursday evening to discuss those views.

At the meeting, Vice President for Academic Affairs Richard Crespin announced he has submitted his resignation to Tarnow in order to give the new president the opportunity to start in a new direction if he chooses to.

"I submitted my resignation to ease the transition and to also emphasize the work I started," Crespin said. "I don't want to see things stop and I want to continue, but I'll live by Jon's decisions." Tarnow has the option to refuse Crespin's resignation, thereby inviting him to continue his work in the Cabinet.

Jim Arsenault, vice president for judicial affairs, said he thinks along the same lines. He said he feels as a matter of courtesy the vice presidents should submit their resignations to allow Tarnow the opportunity to decide how the transition should proceed.

On the other hand, Arsenault said he has made up his mind to stay on because of his responsibility to the students, but added he will respect any decision Tarnow makes. "My obligation is to protect student rights as in the (SA) Constitution. I'm not serving to my best by resigning. It's a time to stay," Arsenault said.

Other Cabinet members said they feel they should not submit resignations because Musante's comment deals with him personally and his effectiveness as president, rather than the SA as a whole. Nevertheless, Tarnow has a constitutional right to replace members of the SA Cabinet when he assumes office.

Molly Buchanan, vice president for student activities, said she does not consider her loyalty to Musante as a reason to resign, but added she will talk with Tarnow and step aside if he wants her to do so.

"It's wrong to resign if you don't want to resign," Vice President for Public Affairs Jeff Eshelman said. "If you want, you should feel you can stay on and do a good job. You shouldn't try to save face by letting someone else make the decision for you."

Tarnow said he has not decided how matters with the Cabinet should go forward, especially because his style of leadership differs from Musante's. "It's not going to be a blanket of everyone stays or everyone goes," Tarnow said. "There's a great advantage to cleaning house and people want that. I have to pull the organization up and continue, but you can't do that by starting completely over."

Musante and his Cabinet have been forming plans for the University since May and Tarnow said he recognizes the effects departures could have on them. He added he will weigh the costs and benefits to the SA and the community when deciding on accepting or refusing vice presidents' resignations.

Musante officially nominated the Cabinet, but Tarnow was a member of the SA transitional committee that interviewed the applicants and made suggestions about how Musante should fill the seats.

Other Cabinet members are undecided on whether they should stay or resign. "I'm kicking around the idea of resigning," Ken Egan, vice president for undergraduate student policy, said. "It's difficult. We're roommates, but Mike's urging me to stay on. I'm going home over the weekend and I'll think about it then."

Eshelman said he will stay on for the meantime, but commented that he wants to get a taste of the direction in which Tarnow takes the SA before he decides if he will stay for good. "I'm considering all the options, but I'd like to talk with some more people," Eshelman said.

Obaid Ahmad, vice president for financial affairs, said he hopes to come to a decision about whether to resign his position or not by the end of Friday. He said for him it is an issue of personal loyalty versus the need of the students.

"Looking objectively," Ahmad said, "it's probably better to stay on to serve the students and even go out and work with a stronger force to do the things that we and Mike planned to do."

## Reaction

continued from p. 3

tion," Tadesse said, adding that Musante's resignation does not cleanse the University of racist influences. "I would like to see student leaders get together and work together to bring about a better environment in which we can all live."

"Education is the first step," Black Peoples' Union President Kelvin Glover said. "The longest journey begins with the first step." He added that he thinks the University's event Monday is a good start. (see related story p. 1)

"Racism is an issue that has plagued our University through the years. This situation has brought the issue into greater focus," Interfraternity Council President Dan Serviss said. "Our challenge now is to effectively address and battle it at all levels."

"I believe Mike's resignation is in the

best interest for all parties," Serviss said, adding that public knowledge of his comment would hinder Musante's ability to get things accomplished in the SA.

But some student leaders had grave concerns. Glover shares Serviss' sentiment that Musante could no longer be an effective representative of the student body, but added that he was also concerned for Musante's physical safety, if he had not chosen to step down.

"That 'n' word opens up wounds that have never healed and Mike has thrown salt onto those wounds," Glover said. "Anytime students will say to me casually that maybe he needs to disappear, I get concerned."

A lot of anger exists among black students on campus, Glover said, adding his constituents told him Musante had to resign. "They said 'Got to go. Hang him, head on a platter — got to go,'" Glover said. He added the SA needs to address what its role will be in trying to rectify the situation. "We need to formulate a plan to involve the entire campus in the healing process and education."

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Student  
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## Current Cabinet

Bill Baroni	Chief of Staff
Ken Egan	VP Undergraduate Policy
Molly Buchanan	VP Student Activities
Jeff Eshelman	VP Public Affairs
Tavi Alchek	VP Graduate Policy
Richard Crespin	VP Academic Affairs
Jim Arsenault	VP Judicial and Legislative Affairs
Obaid Ahmad	VP Financial Affairs
Tracie Lynn Patton	Office Administrator



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## The Leiter Side

# 'What if' reigns when one incident turns to catastrophe

It's amazing how one little thing can have a significant impact on so much. You have to ask yourself "What if . . ." questions when events such as Mike Musante's resignation occur. What if Michael Rabie never submitted his resignation letter to the Hatchet? What if he kept these feelings to himself? Would Mike have remained in office for an entire year (maybe even two) harboring bigotry?

Probably. And we would never know what was said behind closed doors that day. It is scary to think what our officials say when they are not addressing TV cameras or reporters' notebooks. When we do find out they have done something outrageously offensive, that one thing sticks in our minds whenever we hear their name.

Thoughts of President Nixon naturally have danced through my head during the production of this paper. Although I will not give Woodward and Bernstein full credit for exposing the Watergate scandal, their work on that event drastically changed the way journalism is practiced today.

## A look back at the Musante term

### Safety, financial aid headed short-lived administration's agenda

by Daniel Owen  
Hatchet Staff Writer

During his election campaign, former Student Association President Mike Musante pledged to bring a change in direction to the SA. "It's no longer 'We the SA, them the students,'" he said in the Oct. 1 issue of The GW Hatchet. "We're all students and we have to work together."

Throughout his campaign, Musante criticized the SA for its in-fighting, and pledged to set it back to work. "The administration likes to see students not being able to get along together. Nothing gets accomplished this way," he said last February.

Musante's optimism was shared by members of the SA Senate. Announcing the senate's agenda for the semester in September, Executive Vice President Jon Tarnow identified a cooperative attitude between the senate and the president, which he said would allow for a sense of mutual responsibility.

The priorities of the administration were made clear from the start: Musante identified campus security and financial aid as his two main concerns.

Musante announced progress on both issues early in the semester. On Sept. 22, the SA announced Motorola's donation of two pagers for use by the Student Escort Service.

Musante's initiative to gain student support for a shuttle bus program created some controversy when he printed a full page advertisement in the Hatchet calling for student demand for the project. Robert Chernak, vice president for student and academic support services, described Musante's actions

as "shallow" and "immature." Musante stood by his plans, insisting a shuttle bus was still desirable and viable.

Musante said he was also proud of his achievements on the issue of financial aid. Financial aid information booths were set up by the University at the beginning of the semester as a temporary version of Musante's proposal to ease the runaround between three administrative offices for financial aid.

The University has also seen progress in meetings between the SA and Gelman Library officials. Town meetings allowed students to discuss their concerns directly with the administration.

Musante also said students have shown greater involvement in the SA this year than in the past years, with a record number of applicants for freshman senate seats.

During his election, Musante promised to be a "president for all students, not just a select faction . . . with graduate and undergraduate supporters of every race, creed and color." Despite his pledge to work for "the betterment of this campus" and the continuing debate over racial tensions throughout this semester, Musante's administration never seemed to take hold of the issue and determine a policy in line with Musante's intention to unite all students.

Many SA senators said Musante was doing a good job when he was accused of making a racial slur. Sens. Allen Lawrence, Jessica Arneson, Jason Schwartz and Sue Walitsky all noted Musante's achievements on security and financial aid, and expressed their opinions that Musante had been a good president. "Things he said he'd do, he did," Walitsky, a Graduate School of Business and Public Management senator, said.

week. And hey, we are here putting out this paper on what is normally our only night off.

Despite my doubts about the success of diversity training workshops and other programs of the sort, I honestly believe the University can learn valuable lessons from this incident. GW has made wonderful progress since I started here three years ago in breaking down some of the racial barriers between students. But Musante's comment can serve as a reality check to make everyone realize that although we've come a long way baby, we ain't there yet.

Many say Musante's hopes of a political career are destroyed. Others, however, claim that to let this one single event ruin the rest of his professional and personal life opposes everything for which this University strives: teaching, learning, growing. President Trachtenberg remarked to me that the beauty of collegiate life is that it is fail-safe — it allows for sophomore behavior.

I wouldn't go so far as to say that what you do in college has no affect on the rest of your life,

because it does — both your mistakes and achievements. But I will say that college is a learning experience, and to condemn those who change their major, their political affiliation, or make a grave mistake like Mike's would defeat the purpose of University life. Forgiving Mike would not be condoning his behavior, it would be promoting higher education.

-Lisa Leiter

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Those who participate in the discussion groups will talk through the issues arising from Musante's comment and subsequent resignation, and will also discuss the remarks made by University leaders at the Smith Center event.

## Assembly

*continued from p. 1*

West Virginia, where he participated in a college fair for GW.

Trachtenberg said if Musante asked him for advice, he would tell him to speak at the event. "I would advise him to speak to work toward redemption," he added.

Following the Smith Center event, discussion groups will be held from 2 to 3 p.m. in both the Marvin Center and residence halls. Student leaders and faculty will help lead the discussions, Strong said.

Strong said some students are concerned the University lacks certain vehicles of diversity. He noted that some students are not aware of many University programs and events promoting multiculturalism. He cited African studies as an example of something students think GW lacks, and noted that the University already offers a significant number of African studies courses. "Someone who wanted to make it a secondary field of study could do it," he added.

way for African-Americans to 'escape' from the life of slavery. Also, it was a way to voice their hardships and keep with African traditions. Jazz is a unifying element between black and white culture. Even in times of segregation, black and white jazz musicians played together," she said.

Maralit said Unity Week takes on particular significance with the recent racial tensions on campus, and Musante's resignation.

"Elements of racism are still out there," she said. Though this is the third annual Unity Week at GW, Maralit said she hopes this week especially will help ease current racial tensions.

The slogan for the week is "Within Our Grasp," referring to "unity" and "togetherness," Maralit said. "We really need more than a week to reach out to everybody." She said no events were planned specifically for Latin Americans or Asian Americans because she didn't want to single out individual groups. "We just want one big celebration of our diversity," she said.

"We have to ease the tensions that exist on campus," Maralit said. "There have been lots of problems in the past and they're still going to be here. Everyone just has to learn about everyone else," Maralit said.

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Mike Musante speaks about racism at a BPU rally in September.

photo by Dana Giuliana

# Unity Week '92

## "Within Our Grasp"

*One Campus: Affirming Diversity - Building Common Visions*

October 30th- November 9th

**Friday, October 30**

**Armstrong...The Master Trumpeter,  
Vocalist, and Arranger**

12:00 noon  
Academic Center B-120  
Cosponsored with The Charlin Jazz Society.

**The Genius of Louis Armstrong**

8:30 pm  
Marvin Center 3rd floor Ballroom  
Cosponsored with The Charlin Jazz Society.

**Halloween Party**

8:00pm  
Mitchell Hall Recreation Room

**Saturday, October 31**

**"The Wonderful World of Louis Armstrong"**

8:00 pm  
Lisner Auditorium  
Presented by The Charlin Jazz Society

**Halloween Masquerade**

"Out From Behind The Mask"

9:00 pm  
Marvin Center Ballroom

\$10 w/ GW ID \$12 without

\$2 off with canned food for **THE WHITMAN-WALKER CLINIC**

Sponsored by the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Alliance

**Monday, November 2**

**SPECIAL EVENT**

**YOLANDA KING**

**DAUGHTER OF MARTIN L. KING JR.**

**"ONE COMMUNITY... ULTIMATELY!"**

8:00pm  
Marvin Center Ballroom

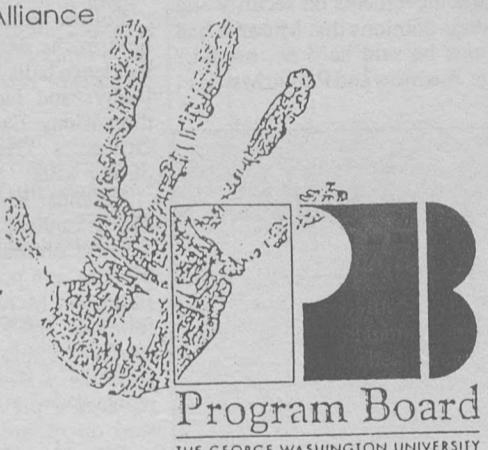
**Tuesday, November 3**

**Interracial Dating -Panel Discussion**

5:00 pm  
Marvin Center Room 411

**Election Day Party**

7:00 pm  
Marvin Center 5th Floor George's



**Wednesday, November 4**

**Sexual Communication**

3:00 pm  
Marvin Center Room 406  
A Look at Communication between Women and Men.

**Suzan Shown Harjo**

**"Why Columbus Day is Simply History."**

President/Director of The Morning Star Foundation  
7:00 pm  
Marvin Center 3rd Floor Ballroom  
Cosponsored with The Black Peoples' Union

**Thursday, November 5**

**Dr. Seuss Film Festival**

9:00 pm  
Marvin Center 3rd Floor Ballroom  
Please bring canned food for the Homeless.

**Friday, November 6**

**Diversity Training Network Workshop**

9:00 am- 1:30 pm  
Gelman Library Conference Room 202A  
To Register call 994-6555.

**Unity Jam**

10:00 pm  
Marvin Center 1st Floor Market Square  
\$5 for Member Groups  
\$6 for Non-member Groups

**Asian Express**

9:00 pm  
Marvin Center 3rd Floor Ballroom  
\$6 w/ GW ID \$8 without  
-A Fundraiser for UNICEF

**Saturday, November 7**

**African Studies Lecture**

1:00pm  
Marvin Center Room 403  
Sponsored by The Black Peoples' Union.

**Sunday, November 8**

**Dating Game**

8:00 pm  
Marvin Center 5th Floor George's  
GW's Multicultural Dating Game.

**Monday, November 9**

**Nadine Strossen**

President of the American Civil Liberties Union  
6:00 pm Reception 7:00 pm Lecture  
Marvin Center 3rd Floor Ballroom